

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LIVE AND LET LIVE: IVAN KRAJACIC HONORED

REF: ZAGREB A-218 OF 10/9/68

1. ON SEPTEMBER 29, IVAN KRAJACIC, FORMER PRESIDENT OF CROATIAN ASSEMBLY AND CROATIAN MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS WAS GIVEN "ORDER OF HEROES OF SOCIALIST LABOR." JAKOV BLAZEVIC, PRESIDENT OF CROATIAN PRESIDENCY, PRESENTED AWARD WITH COMPLETE "WHO'S WHO" OF CROATIAN POLITICS IN ATTENDANCE. THOSE PRESENT INCLUDED: MILKA PLANINC, PRESIDENT OF CROATIAN LCY, IVO PERISIN, PRESIDENT OF CROATIAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF CROATIAN PRESIDENCY, MILITARY COMMANDER FOR ZAGREB REGION, AND CROATIAN SECRETARY FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. ALL ZAGREB PAPERS FOR SEPTEMBER 30 GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO CEREMONY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS PRESIDENT TITO BESTOWED AWARD ON KRAJACIC ON OCCASION OF HIS SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY FOR "HIS MANY YEARS OF WORK AND EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE IN THE BUILDING OF SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA."

3. KRAJACIC HAS LONG HISTORY OF PARTY ACTIVITY. HE BECAME PARTY MEMBER IN 1933, TOOK PART IN SPANISH CIVIL WAR, AND WAS INVOLVED IN EARLY STAGES OF PARTISAN MOVEMENT IN CROATIA. AFTER WAR, HE SERVED AS CROATIAN MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS FROM 1946-53 AND

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LATER AS PRESIDENT OF CROATIAN ASSEMBLY. APPARENTLY, IN LATE

1960'S, KRAJACIC FELL INTO DISFAVOR FOR HIS OPPOSITION TO ECONOMIC REFORMS AND HIS TIES WITH FORMER YUGOSLAV VICE-PRESIDENT ALEKSANDAR RANKOVIC. IN 1968, WHEN SUBORDINATES OF KRAJACIC WERE IMPLICATED IN SO-CALLED "MICKOVIC AFFAIR," EMBEZZLEMENT SCANDAL (REFAIR), KRAJACIC RESIGNED HIS CENTRAL COMMITTEE SEAT AND DROPPED FROM PUBLIC VIEW.

4. COMMENT: "REHABILITATION" MIGHT BE A HANDY WORD TO DESCRIBE THE REAPPEARANCE OF KRAJACIC, BUT IT WOULD OVERSTATE THE CASE SINCE HE WAS NEVER PERSONALLY DISGRACED OR IMPRISONED. MOREOVER, THE BIRTHDAY HONORS DO NOT SIGNIFY A RETURN TO POLITICAL POWER. WHAT DOES EMERGE, IN LIGHT OF TITO'S BLESSING OF THE CEREMONY, IS AN ACT CONSISTENT WITH THE SZTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY TITO IN HIS FEBRUARY 1, 1976 "VJESNIK" INTERVIEW WHEN HE CALLED FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF THOSE WHO, AFTER LONG YEARS OF PARTY SERVICE, HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF "UNJUST APPRAISALS." AWARDING OF MEDAL TO KRAJACIC UNDERLINES IMPORTANCE (AND REWARDS) OF SERVICE TO PARTY. HONORING KRAJACIC AFTER HE IS BEYOND POINT OF PLAYING POLITICAL ROLE ALSO MAY BE RELATIVELY PAINLESS WAY TO PROMOTE PARTY UNITY BY RECONCILING SOME OF THOSE WHO HAD BEEN DRIVEN FROM POSITIONS OF POWER IN EARLIER YEARS. YUGOSLAVS ARE NOTORIOUSLY SENTIMENTAL ABOUT 60TH AND 70TH BIRTHDAYS, BUT A SIMPLE GREETING FROM THE BOSS WOULD HAVE SUFFICED TO FULFILL THIS OBLIGATION. THE FACT THAT TITO INSTEAD APPROVED BIG PUBLIC CEREMONY IN THE PANOPLY OF TOP CROATIAN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP SEEMS TO BE SAYING,

"WE NEED EVERYONE FOR THE COMING STRUGGLE. LET'S STAY TOGETHER."
GROSS

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